



Committee: Directly to Council

Committee Review: N/A

Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected

Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #22

May 21, 2020

Discussion

SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (County Council sitting as the Board of Health)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of DHHS Public Health Services

Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive updates.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council will receive an update on the public health data and emergency response to the COVID-19 public emergency from Dr. Gayles and Dr. Stoddard.

The following is data from the Maryland website on May 20, 2020:

- 42,323 confirmed cases statewide compared to 41,546 yesterday (increase of 777 cases or 1.9%).
- 9,052 confirmed cases in Montgomery County.
- 2,004 confirmed deaths statewide, represents 4.7% of total cases. In addition, there are 119 “probable deaths” that have not been confirmed by testing.
- 474 confirmed deaths in Montgomery County; represents 5.2% of confirmed cases. In addition, there are 41 “probable deaths” that have not been confirmed by testing.
- 1,410 people are currently hospitalized statewide; 871 are in acute care; 539 are in intensive care.
- 7,393 cumulative hospitalizations statewide; represents 17.4% of confirmed cases.
- 2,993 persons have been released from isolation statewide.
- 173,007 negative tests statewide. Total tests statewide is 215,330. Positive tests are 19.6% of total tests.

Statewide Demographic Data (May 20, 2020)

The State provides statewide demographic data; it does not provide data by county.

Sex:	Confirmed Cases (N=42,323)	Confirmed Deaths (N=2,004)	Probable Deaths (N=119)
Male	20,225	1,017	49
Female	22,098	987	70
Not available	0	0	0
Race:	Confirmed Cases (N=42,323)	Confirmed Deaths (N=2,004)	Probable Deaths (N=119)
African American (NH)	12,919	839	37
823	71	6	6
White (NH)	8,566	837	59
Hispanic	10,153	163	8
Other (NH)	2,106	25	1
Not Available	7,756	69	8

Montgomery County Metrics

Montgomery County has the second highest number of confirmed cases and the highest number of deaths in the State of Maryland. In continuing the stay at home order, County Executive Elrich outlined these specific metrics that will be used to determine when it is safe to reopen businesses and activities that are currently closed.

1. A sustained decrease during a 14-day period of new cases in an environment of increased testing.
2. A sustained decrease in the COVID-19 related hospitalization rate.
3. A sustained decrease in the percentage of COVID-19 related ICU beds in use.
4. A sustained decrease in the number of COVID-19 related daily deaths.
5. A sustained decrease in the number of COVID-19 related patients going to County emergency rooms.

Link to May 15, 2020 Press Release regarding Montgomery County stay at home order:

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=25327

On May 15, 2020, the County Council approved Resolution 19-456, Approval of Executive Order No. 067-20, COVID-19 Local Order. The following is a link to the resolution:

https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccllms/DownloadFilePage?FileName=9668_1_10651_Resolution_19-456_Adopted_20200515.pdf

COVID-19 Background (from Maryland.gov)

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily.

COVID-19 is thought to be able to spread like the cold or flu through:

Coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets
Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

Fever
Coughing
Shortness of breath; in more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness.

Link to County Website:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>

Link to Maryland Website:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Health is continuing its regular briefings on the status of cases in Montgomery County and ongoing coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies and healthcare providers.

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